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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Hungary 25X1 [REDACTED] REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC 1. Reserve Parachute Battalion at S/repentele [REDACTED]  
2. Székesfehérvár-Sosto Airfield 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 [REDACTED] 25X1 [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1 633978

DATE OF CONTENT 1 August to 30 September 1952

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1 DATE PREPARED 28 April 1954

REFERENCES [REDACTED] 25X1

PAGES 6 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1 [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]

25X11. During the period from 1 August to 30 September 1952, the reserve parachute  
25X1 battalion [REDACTED] was stationed at a tent encampment  
25X1 about 500 meters southeast of S/repentele (Q 48/E 09) southwest of Székes-  
25X1 fehérvár (Q 48/Z 00). The battalion consisted of 4 companies [REDACTED]  
25X1 [REDACTED] All of the officers, NCOs and EM of the battalion wore  
25X1 green service color and a metal insignia, 3.5 cm. in diameter, representing  
a parachute surrounded by a green laurel wreath with a red Soviet star in the  
upper section of the wreath. This insignia was worn by soldiers who had made  
at least one parachute jump. The individual jumps were entered in a para-  
chute book (Ugrokoenyv) which was handed out to the owner after his discharge.  
The parachute insignia and parachute book were issued prior to 1 August 1952. 25X1

3. The battalion which had been activated for reservists was organized into the  
headquarters, the 1st Co (rifle), the 2d Co (machine gun), the 3d Co (signal),  
and the 4th Co (heavy weapons). The training officers and NCOs were probably  
assigned to the parachute unit at Székesfehérvár-Sosto (Q 48/E 09) airfield.  
Source knew that the staff of the battalion included the battalion commander,  
his deputy who simultaneously was the chief of the 1st Co, 2 political officers,  
and 1 NCO acting as clerk. The 1st Co (rifle) consisted of 1 company chief,  
1 maj. sergeant, 1 clerk, and 3 platoons with 1 platoon leader each, 4 squads;

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each squad had 1 squad leader, 2 light machine gun riflemen, 7 riflemen, and was equipped with 1 model N 48 7.62-mm. light machine gun. The 2d Co (machine gun) was organized like the 1st Co but, instead of the light machine gun, it was equipped with a model N 48 Maxim-type 7.62-mm. heavy machine gun. The organization of the 3d Co (signal) was not known. The company had a strength of about 100 men. The 4th Co (heavy weapons) consisted of 1 company chief, 1 master sergeant, 1 clerk, 1 antitank platoon with 1 platoon leader and 3 squads; each squad, equipped with an antitank gun of about 60 mm. caliber; and 2 mortar platoons, each with 1 platoon leader and 3 squads; each squad equipped with 1 mortar of about 80 mm. caliber. After 30 September 1952, no further training courses were held by the battalion. Upon completion of the last course, the tent camp was dismantled.

4. The battalion was equipped with the following weapons and motor vehicles:
  - 1 Soviet-made model 48 7.62-mm. rifle
  - 1 Soviet-made model 48 7.62-mm. submachine gun
  - 1 Soviet-made model 48 7.62 pistol
  - 12 model 48 7.62-mm. light machine guns
  - 12 Maxim-type model 48 7.62-mm. heavy machine guns
  - 3 AT guns, about 60 mm, without muzzle brake, split-trail gun carriage; the AT guns allegedly could be disassembled into 3 parts for parachuting
  - 6 mortars, about 80 mm.
  - 1 model 48 Vecsey-type stick hand grenade
  - 1 Soviet-made model L-2 hand grenade
  - 1 Soviet-made model L-3 hand grenade, also referred to as "Mais" hand grenade
  - 3 1.5-ton weapon carriers for towing the AT guns
  - 1 jeep
5. The EM of the battalion were equipped with the following clothing and items of equipment:
  - 1 linen uniform with a Pilotka-type cap
  - 1 pair of leather top-boots
  - 1 woollen coat
  - 2 undershirts
  - 2 pairs of white pants
  - 2 pairs of linen foot rags
  - 1 belt
  - 1 uniform belt
  - 1 infantry spade with cover

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- 1 rucksack
- 1 ammunition pocket
- 1 tarpaulin
- 1 canteen
- 1 mess kit, German type
- 2 linen cloths
- 2 covers
- 2 towels

The body and bed linen was washed by the laundry of the battalion. Each man was issued 250 grams of soap for his personal use.

6. During training activity, the following daily duty schedule was in force:

5 a.m.	reveille
5 a.m. to 7 a.m.	morning sport, breakfast, fatigue duty
7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	march to Székesfehérvár-Sóto airfield
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	athletics; replaced by political indoctrination about 4 times a week
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	gymnastic exercises
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	dinner and off duty
1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	lessons and parachute-folding training
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	march back to the camp
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	maintenance of equipment
6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.	roll call
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	supper
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.	off duty
10 p.m.	taps

As preparatory exercises for parachuting, the following practices were made almost every day:

- a. Jumping from a cabin mounted at an altitude of 3 meters; during these practices, dislocations of the joints occasionally occurred;
- b. Jumping into a heap of sand from altitudes of 3, 4, and 5 meters, accidents never happened;

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differed from the model 48 and model 49 parachutes only by the arrangement of their harness. The Soviet-made automatic and manually operated parachutes did not differ from the Hungarian-made parachutes, except that they were equipped with small auxiliary parachute for emergency cases.

9. The inducted reservists were of the 1920 through 1929 classes, mostly of the 1926 and 1927 classes. About 70 percent of the trainees came from the Dunantul, the area southwest of the Danube River, particularly from the Somogy (Y 5/B 33), Tolna (Y 5/N 10) or (Q 48/Z 04), Baranya (Y 5/E 04), Vas, and Zala (Y 5/W 00) counties. The remaining 30 percent came from the Debrecen, Budapest (Q 48/H 52) and Nyíregyháza (R 48/K 55) areas. At the end of the training course, the reservists were informed that they would be inducted for 1 or 2 months during the following years and that they had to make 2 parachute jumps each time. During the training course, officers of a superior headquarters in Budapest were expected for inspection; however, the officers did not arrive. No connection was observed between the parachute unit at Székesfehérvár airfield and the reserve battalion.
10. The members of the reserve battalion received a ration allowance of 30 florints per day. The food was abundant and well prepared. For breakfast, each person received half a liter of coffee with milk or cocoa, 50 grams of butter, 50 grams of jam, and an unlimited quantity of bread. Dinner consisted of soup, vegetable, 100 to 150 grams of meat, fruit, and cheese. Supper was composed of soup with meat and fruit. The monthly pay of a private amounted to 60 florints. Source, who was inducted as staff lance corporal of the reserve received the same pay, as well as an additional 50 pen of the battalion. An extra allowance was paid for the jumps made, such as 10 florints for the first jump, 25 florints for the following nine jumps, 30 florints for the eleventh through hundredth jump, and 100 florints for more than 100 jumps. There was only one man in the battalion who had been a parachute sergeant of the former Hungarian Armed Force and had made more than 70 jumps.
11. Székesfehérvár-Sosto airfield extended about 3 km. from north to south and 1 to 1.5 km. from east to west. Its northern border was 2.5 to 3 km. south of Székesfehérvár railroad station. The borders of the ellipse-shaped field were not marked. The field area and its surroundings were level and no flight obstacles were in the vicinity. The railroad line from Székesfehérvár to Lepsény (Y 5/D 97) ran along the western field border. A spur track could not be observed. Between the western side of the field and the railroad line extended a concrete road which was in good condition and led from Székesfehérvár to the airfield. The field was an improved military installation which had been used for military purposes already prior to 1945. During the summer of 1952, construction work was under way on some buildings at the field. The landing field was entirely covered with grass. The soil was sandy and dry and became smooth only after long rain. No hard-surface runway, taxiway, or aircraft dispersal areas were available. During the summer of 1952, only one hanger in the center of the southwestern section of the field was in operation. South of this hanger, another hanger was under construction. Nearby, there was a destroyed hanger. Another hanger for non-military purpose was located in the center of the northern section of the field. The quartering buildings for the air force units stationed at the field were located west of the hangers. An overground fuel dump, 100 meters square, surrounded by barbed wire and permanently guarded, was observed in the northwestern corner of the field. The airfield was not fenced in or blocked, but guarded by sentries during the daytime and at night. No preparatory measures for active or passive antiaircraft defense were observed.

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12. Between 1 August and 30 September 1952, aircraft observed at the field included 20 single-engine fighters, low-wing monoplanes with in-line piston engine, three-bladed propeller, tapering wings, rounded wing tips, slight dihedral and retractable landing gear, tail wheel, streamline-shaped cabin beginning in front of leading edges of wings and terminating aft of trailing edges of wings, and 2 twin-engine Teve-type aircraft for parachuting. All of the aircraft were painted khaki and were marked by a large red star surrounded by a red-white-green circle. A third Teve-type aircraft and 2 single-engine sports planes with in-line engines were repeatedly observed in the northern section of the field. The sports aircraft did not belong to the air force unit stationed at the field. The fighter aircraft were assigned to a Hungarian fighter unit which had an estimated strength of 20 to 30 officers and 100 EMs.

13. In addition to the fighter unit, a parachute unit with an estimated strength of two companies was located at the field in August and September 1952. A soldier of the parachute unit stated that he had been inducted for active service in the fall of 1951. He further said that he came from the Tolna county and, like all of his comrades, belonged to the 1930 class.

14. The third unit at the airfield was a school for NCO candidates, possibly a reserve NCO school was concerned. Most of NCO candidates seemed to belong to older classes. The 150 to 200 members of the school wore blue epaulets surrounded by a silver braid, about 1 cm. wide. The school had already been in existence prior to 1 August 1952 and still continued after the end of September 1952.

1. Comment. The report, though dating back rather far, is forwarded because it contains the first detailed information on the reserve parachute battalion at Sarpentele. The unconfirmed information is believed credible. The officers' names are also received for the first time.

2. Comment. The information on the location of and installations at Szekesfehervar-Sosto airfield agree with previous reports covering the same period and with a formerly received sketch which was not forwarded. With regard to the occupation by a Hungarian fighter unit, however, there are divergencies to former reports. no aircraft were observed at the field on 13 September 1952, while other reports covering July and October 1952 mentioned 4 to 8 Yak-9s besides other aircraft types at the field. It is possible that a portion of the field could not be observed from the railroad line because of the buildings located in the southwestern section and that aircraft were parked in the southwestern hangars. Teve is the Hungarian designation for the Li-2.

3. Comment. According to reference report, Hungarian soldiers with green service color were observed on 13 September 1952. The present report confirms this statement and supports the assumption that a Hungarian parachute unit is stationed at the field.

4. Comment. According to former reports covering the years of 1951 and 1952, Szekesfehervar-Sosto airfield was occupied by an air unit, a parachute unit, and an air-force ground personnel school. The exact designation of the latter school could not be determined. It appears possible that the Hungarian soldiers who had been observed drilling in the field belonged to the presumed reserve NCO school, mentioned in the present report.

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